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U.P. PHASE-5 POLLS TODAY

224 CR

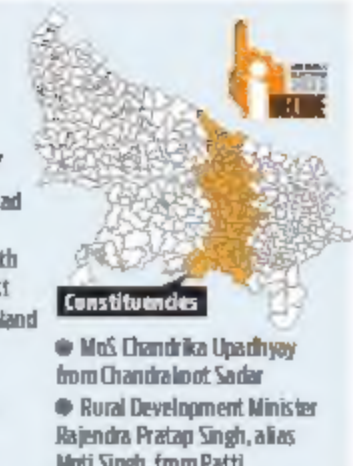
voters to decide the fate of 692 candidates

61

Assembly seats in 12 districts

MINISTERS IN FRAY

● Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya from Sirathu
● MSME minister Siddharth Singh from Allahabad West
● Civil aviation minister Nand Gopal Gupta from Allahabad South
● Social welfare minister Ramapatti Shastri from Mankapur



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NEXT TWO PHASES TO BE HELD ON MARCH 3, 7. RESULTS: MARCH 10 | P9

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EXPRESS READ

CJI rues lack of basic judicial infrastructure

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana has rued the lack of 'basic minimum standards' of judicial infrastructure and stressed the need of not only filling vacancies, but also raising the number of judges in HC to deal with IP cases. **P10**

ALL WORK ALL PLAY
WITH THIS ISSUE
PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

Ukraine puts up surprising resistance; fight likely to last for days as allies rush arms and ammunition

Gritty Kyiv battles barrage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

RUSSIAN troops continued to advance through major Ukrainian cities for the third day running on Saturday but capital Kyiv hasn't fallen yet. A defiant president Volodymyr Zelenskyy claimed his forces have 'derailed' Russia's invasion plan, adding that the real fight is still unfolding.

Russia's fight for Kyiv is likely to be protracted with Ukraine set to get emergency supplies of arms and ammunition from allies. On Saturday, the Czech Republic said it will donate machine guns, assault and sniper rifles, pistols and ammunition valued at 7.6 million euros (\$8.6 million). Czech defence minister Jana Cernochova said the consignment would comprise 30,000 pistols, 7,000 assault rifles, 3,000 machine guns, several dozen sniper guns and about a million cartridges.



Family members receive their loved ones from war-hit Ukraine at the Mumbai airport on Saturday. They were evacuated from Bucharest, Romania | P11

Kyiv continued to reel under explosions on Saturday as residents of the city braced to spend a second night in bomb shelters and underground metro stations. In a video message, Zelenskyy accused Russia of attacking infrastructure and civilian targets. Moscow maintained that it was only

hitting military targets, but bridges, schools and residential neighbourhoods have been hit ever since the invasion began on Thursday accompanied by air and missile strikes. According to Ukraine's health minister, 198 people, including three children, have been killed and more than 1,000 others

have been wounded in the Russian assault so far.

Associated Press reported that a Russian missile struck a high-rise apartment building in the southwestern outskirts near one of Kyiv's two passenger airports, leaving a jagged hole of ravaged apartments over several floors. A rescue worker said six civilians were injured, it added.

The ongoing conflict has driven thousands of Ukrainians from their homes in search of safety. According to the UN, more than 120,000 Ukrainians have left the nation for Poland, Moldova and other neighbours. While Putin has not disclosed his ultimate plans for Ukraine or said how long the military operation could last, Western officials believe the Russian leader is determined to overthrow Ukraine's government and replace it with a regime of his own. **P8, P10, P11**

12 students from K'taka land in Mumbai

BENGALURU: The first batch of students from Karnataka who were stranded in Ukraine returned to India on Saturday night. A senior government official said 12 from Karnataka were among those who arrived in Mumbai through Romania. Another five are expected to arrive in Delhi on Sunday morning. Manoj Rajan, Commissioner, Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) who has been appointed nodal officer to facilitate the safe return of stranded people and students from Karnataka in Ukraine to their respective places, said that arrangements are being made to help the students who have landed in Mumbai to take the earliest available flight to Bengaluru. From Bengaluru, they will head to their hometowns. **P4**

Zelenskyy dials Modi, seeks political support in UNSC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ New Delhi

HOURS after India abstained from voting on a US-sponsored United Nations Security Council resolution deploring Russia's "aggression" against Ukraine, the beleaguered nation's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and sought India's political support at the UNSC to stop Russia's military offensive.

The external affairs ministry said the PM expressed his deep anguish about the loss of life and property. He reiterated his call for a return to dialogue and expressed India's willingness to contribute towards peace efforts. "(The) Prime Minister also conveyed India's concern for the

safety and security of Indian citizens in Ukraine. He sought facilitation by Ukrainian authorities to safely evacuate them," the MEA said. Earlier at the UN Security Council, India called for the immediate cessation of violence and hostilities and asserted that dialogue was the "only answer" to settling disputes.

Interestingly, India and China

were on the same page. "The issue of Ukraine is not something that emerged today, nor did the current situation occur suddenly overnight... We call on all parties to immediately come back to the track of diplomatic negotiations and political settlement," said Ambassador Zhang Jun in his explanation of vote (EOV).

The UAE also expressed the same sentiments in its EO.

War may take sheen off Karnataka's granite biz

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

AS Russian missiles and explosives are pounding the capital city of Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine over the last couple of days, the granite industry in Karnataka is feeling the heat.

Members of the industry which has just been recovering from the effects of Covid, fear that if the war situation worsens, it could impact the delivery of export orders as it would be difficult to even get containers. Chamarajanagar district alone has over 60

black granite quarries and 12 polishing and cutting industries, which exported stones worth Rs 1,072 crore between September 2020 and March 2021. But with the pandemic, nearly 60 per cent of the production had been hit.

The Chamarajanagar

black granite is known for its uniqueness, evenness and shine. It is much sought after in the US, Europe, Russia and Ukraine, where it is used as tombstones by Christian, Jewish and other communities.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Bajrang Dal activist held for murder of Dalit man

ENS @ Mangaluru

JUST days after the murder of a Bajrang Dal activist, Harsha, in Shivamogga, the Dharmasthala police on Saturday arrested a Bajrang Dal activist in connection with the murder of a Dalit man from Kanyadi village of Belthangady taluk.

"During a tiff on February 23, the accused, Krishna alias Kittu, assaulted Dinesh (41), pushed him to the ground and kicked him. Dinesh sustained injuries in the stomach and died at District Wenlock Hospital," said Dakshina Kannada SP Rishikesh Sonawane. Dinesh's mother, who is the complainant, said, "Krishna was angry after Dinesh told him that it was Congress leader and former MLA K Vasanth Bangera who helped Krishna's wife get a piece of land. Krishna was with Dinesh when he was taken to the hospital. But he disappeared after coming to know that Dinesh may not survive." **P5**

SUNNY SIDE TO THAT GLASS OF MILK
P2

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4 departments are amongst top 2 in Odisha
10 departments are amongst top 5 in eastern, India.
Institute of Dental Sciences
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